(c) Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda and Letter of Intent statistics reveal preference for textile and chemical industries during the first half of 1999-2000.

(d) The steps taken to improve industrial growth, *inter alia,* are:

(i) special package announced for revival of growth in exports;

(ii) repeal of ULCRA and incentive to house ownership;

(iii) the Government has allowed buy back of shares and inter-corporate loans to boost investment and revive the capital market;

(iv) a new Power Policy announced;

(v) foreign companies with 100% participation in banking sector permitted;

(vi) excise duties rationalised;

(vii) income tax rate and custom duties on infrastructure projects reduced;

(viii) liberalisation of inflow of FDI/NRI/OCB investment;

(ix) the guidelines for foreign equity investment in NBFC have further been modified;

(x) setting up of National Accreditation Boards including a National Patent Office and a National Benchmarking Patent House to promote integration of best practices in the Indian industry;

(xi) setting up of Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FII A) to provide single point interface between foreign investors and Government machinery;

(xii) restoration of 100% MODVAT credit; .

(e) With a weight of 28.36 percent in the index of industrial production the consumer goods sector grew at 5.7%, 2.4% and 4.0% during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (April-September) respectively.

Export from Himachal Pradesh

17. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural, mineral, forestry, industrial, textile and other products being exported from Himachal Pradesh for the last three years, year-wise and item-wise;

(b) the percentage of these items being exported annually, item-wise;

(c) the items exported from the State during last three years together with the, item-wise export and profit thereof; and

(d) the specific steps being taken to encourage the export from Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Central Government maintains export data for the country as a whole and, not State-wise. The main items of export from Himachal Pradesh are Agricultural and Horticultural Products. Apples are the main item of export from the State.

(d) An Export Promotion Industrial Park has been sanctioned in Himachal Pradesh at Baddi. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has provided financial assistance to (i) Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation, Shimla for trial shipments for Kinnaur Apples to UK with technical assistance from ENZA, a division of New Zewland Apple and Pear Marketing Board and (ii) purchase of Laboratory equipment for an in-house quality control Laboratory during the current year.

Merger of Sick Tea Gardens

18. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to give away all the sick tea gardens of Tea Trading Corporation of India to another sick PSU namely Balmer Lawrie; and

(b) if so, what is the rationale of such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (b) Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of STC, is facing an acute finanacial crunch being a loss making company and has been unable to discharge its obligations. The total liability of the Company is estimated around Rs. 36 crores as on 31.1.1997